

Message Text

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APPROVED BY S/S - WHLUERS

EA - MR. HABIB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230292

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

WHITLAM, OCTOBER 4

REF: STATE 220131

THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM LASTED 40 MINUTES AND THE DISCUSSION WAS ESSENTIALLY OF A 'GET-ACQUAINTED" NATURE. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE US, AND HE ASSURED WHITLAM THAT US WORLDWIDE FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE THE SAME AS IT HAS BEEN. WHITLAM RAISED NO PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANCE. HE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND INDONESIA AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIA. WHITLAM INFORMALLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD VISIT AUSTRALIA DURING UPCOMING VISIT TO ASIA. THE PRESIDENT SAID THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BUT INDICATED HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO DO SO IN FUTURE. (SEE REFTEL FOR PRESS HANDLING). KISSINGER

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